

REMARKS

The indication that claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 are objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is acknowledged. By the above amendment, claims 2, 5 and 6 have been written in independent form, thereby placing claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 in condition for allowance, and rejected claims 1, 4 and 7-9 have been canceled.

As to the rejection of claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kajiyama et al (6,430,143) in view of Seki et al (5,581,523) and the rejection of claims 4, 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kajiyama et al and Seki et al and further in view of Asoma (6,459,672), such rejections have been obviated in light of the cancellation of claims 1, 4 and 7-9, and further comments concerning such rejections are deemed moot.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 2, 3, 5 and 6, the only claims remaining in this application, should now be in condition for allowance, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicant's petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (520.40496X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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